

REVIEWS

CALENDAR OF THE SESSIONS RECORDS—Vol. III, 1705 to 1712—edited by W. Le HARDY and G. L. RECKITT—Aylesbury, published by the Clerk of the Peace.—10s.

The third volume of this valuable record relates to the period inside Queen Anne's reign, and, as in former volumes, we can find, amidst the somewhat arid pages filled with mere names, stray details of the life of the time which cannot be found elsewhere. Sometimes it is very tantalizing not to know the end of the story, thus John Smith buys cherries from John Judge of Little Hampden; he puts the money on the table and goes outside to pick ferns to pack up the cherries. When he returns the money has disappeared, and only John Butler was in the room (p. 73). There our story stops.

Then there was William Tompson, who was indicted for "compounding and extorting" money and a Cheshire cheese from several carriers "upon account that they had drawne waggons with more horses than was allowed by lawe upon London road" (p. 22). The number of horses allowed to draw a cart or waggon was related to the width of the wheels. Tompson died in gaol as it happened, and we hear no more of this case.

William Redding, of Saunderton, was indicted for refusing to carry, with his waggon and team, the baggage and ammunition of two companies of Foot from Wycombe to Aylesbury; in his case we do know that he was fined 6s. 8d. (p. 75).

An anticipation of our Employers' Liability is to be found in the case of Alexr. Olliffe, an old servant of the County; he attended the Assizes and was knocked down by the cart in which the prisoners were being

taken to court; his leg was broken and he had been in the surgeon's hands ever since "to his utter ruine." He received £5 (p. 142).

The Crown was very fair, because when some maltsters at Dorney suffered heavy loss by fire, the duty paid on the malt which was burned was refunded to them (p. 93). Similarly, when a barge was sunk at Marlow, sixteen people who had malt on board obtained return of the tax paid (p. 262).

That an Aylesbury grocer should be indicted for selling "unholosome and corrupt bacon" pleases us (p. 295), but that two Hardwick men should be presented for building unlawful dove-lofts in 1712 is certainly surprising (p. 296).

A really first class scandal lies in an "information" though it contains a story which sounds modern. A maid from Hedgerley rectory is told by a farmer to whom she goes on an errand, that she was unlikely to stay long in her place, as her mistress "had had severall maides and none would stay, and was such a proud woman that one must call her madam at every word." The further remarks on the rector's wife are most unedifying, particularly those made by the farmer's servant, who thought "she might be a tinker's trull for anything she knew." (p. 278).

The editing follows the lines of the previous volumes, a valuable introduction, followed by a bare and compressed text. It is not quite clear though why, in referring to the road from Wornall to Thame (p. 251), the name of Ickford is put in brackets; the editors must know that Worminghall always was, and occasionally is to-day, made a dissyllable.

A fine of 1s. each on two Stewkley men for straightening a lane seems odd (p. 168), but the explanation may be that the word is that which we now spell "straitening"; they had rendered the lane unduly narrow; the editors do not help us here, though.

At the close of the volume are useful appendices, giving a list of all Justices for the County during the period covered, and a register of gamekeepers, with particulars of the manors and their lords for which they were licensed. Another appendix is the Sessions Book for 1647; this is from the muniments preserved at Doddershall, and is some thirty years earlier than any preserved at County Hall. References to the siege of Boarstall are caused by a payment for losses sustained by Joseph Bradley, of Oakley, who had his house and goods burned on that occasion.

THE CARTULARY OF MISSENDEN ABBEY—edited by J. G. JENKINS. Printed for the Records Branch of the Bucks Archaeological Society.

The second volume issued by the Records Branch of our Society will be most heartily welcomed by all concerned with the history of Bucks; for the great house of Austin Canons, according to the rule of Arrouaise, at Great Missenden, touched many places and people in the county, as a glance at the admirable index to this volume shows. Mr. Jenkins hopes to finish the work in one more volume, and, to make this possible, he has been somewhat chary of the annotations which his researches would make possible. His excellent method has been to prefix a charter with a very brief precis in English, and then to print that charter as it is in the volume in the Harleian Collectius.

“As it is,” with the contractions expanded and many of the difficulties smoothed away, so that one can now refer to the full wording of the particular document set out in clear and handsome type. What this means may be illustrated by comparing No. 36 (on p. 42 of Mr. Jenkins’s volume) with the same document when transcribed by John Parker, and printed in the *Records* (vol. vii, p. 315). The word which in the present transcript is given as “managia” (that is

“houses”), is given by Mr. Parker as “magalia,” a Punic word with a similar meaning (Mr. Parker translates it “sheds”), still, when we come to source-books of this importance, absolute pedantry is to be welcomed.

The broad basic facts were known, and have been used by the County historians,—but to have the original text available in such a convenient form, with all the references to any name readily accessible through the index,—will greatly reduce the labour of any parochial historian of the future.

Study and time will be needed for the assimilation of any new light which may be thrown on statements hitherto accepted; for instance, Henry de Crokesley made certain grants in connection with his tenement at Dundry, and an editorial footnote, after citing the *Victoria County History*, states that some of the account there set down will need revision in the light of Charters 251 and 252 (pp. 225-227).

At the present one can only say that Mr. Jenkins has made a substantial addition to the County's history, and that the present and future generations will be much his debtors for his devoted labours.

ED.